



THE ROBINS REV-UP

April 20, 2007 Vol. 52 No. 16

Robins Air Force Base, Ga.

THE MACH READ



Robins cemeteries, see B1

Change of command ceremonies today

There will be a change of command ceremony today at 9 a.m. at the Museum of Aviation. Col. Patrick C. Higby will assume command of the 78th Mission Support Group, replacing Col. Allen Benefield.

The 413th Flight Test Group, will also host a change of command ceremony today at 10 a.m. in the Museum of Aviation Art Gallery. Maj. Gen. Martin M. Mazick, Commander, 22nd Air Force, Dobbins Air Reserve Base, Ga., is the presiding officer.

Col. Phillip Neely will be relinquishing command to Col. Darrel L. Ekstrom.

Road Closure

Work to standardize the pop-up barriers at the Russell Parkway and Green Street gates will begin Monday and continue through May 4. The work will take place in the evenings from 6 p.m. to 5 a.m. Mondays through Fridays at the Russell Parkway gate and 6 p.m. to 5 a.m. Fridays through Mondays on the Green Street gate. Drivers should expect delays during these times. The contractor will work on one lane at a time allowing traffic to still flow in two of the three lanes.

Robins Earth Day Events

Environmental awareness displays will be held Wednesday and Thursday at the Base Restaurant from 11 a.m. until 1 p.m.

A&FRC workshops

The Airmen and Family Readiness Center will offer training for both beginning and experienced sponsors Tuesday, 9 to 10 a.m. and 1 to 2 p.m., Bldg. 794. The training provides information on what types of information to send to the PCSing member and where to obtain it; different ways to communicate with the inbound member; and finally sponsors are given vital information regarding their responsibilities to the newly assigned member and their family, if applicable.

The Consumer Credit Counseling Service of middle Georgia, a non-profit organization funded by the United Way, will conduct a free "Money and Credit Management" workshop Thursday 1 to 4 p.m., Bldg. 794. A comprehensive workbook is provided to all attendees. Information on credit management, debt reduction and consumer rights will be presented at this workshop. Assistance will be provided in the development of spending and savings plans so that financial goals may be realized. This workshop is open to all Team Robins members.

National Child Abuse Prevention Month events

In support of National Child Abuse Prevention Month, there will be a seminar for effectively disciplining children ages two through 12. The seminar, titled 1-2-3 Magic, will be held at the Houston Pavilion April 28 from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with a lunch break from noon to 1:30 p.m. To sign up or for more information, call Linda Towry at 397-8398

Making a difference



Above, 2nd Lt. Regina Forstell and Kenyatta Kendrick pose for the camera at the REACH picnic. Kenyatta was especially proud of her patriotic face.

Below, Elizabeth Phillips, 12, from Parkwood Elementary enjoyed the inflatable games. She said her mentor, Carrie Franklin, found the slide to be "scary."

Annual REACH picnic offers Team Robins mentors and youth chance to relax, relate

By AMANDA CREEL
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Members of Team Robins are always making a difference in the lives of the community that surrounds the gates of the base.

One of the programs is the Raising Education Achievement for Children mentoring program, which allows members of the Robins community to mentor elementary age children from throughout the local community.

Jennifer Hall, a teacher and REACH coordinator at Parkwood Elementary, said the program is invaluable to the students involved and seeing the one-on-one interaction and attention is great.

"A lot of the children just need a positive role model, someone coming to check in on them just because they are interested in them," Ms. Hall said.

The program targets three areas to help the students: improving academic performance, increasing school attendance and keeping children out of trouble, said Patti Conley with the Big Brothers, Big Sisters of the Heart of Georgia program. Mentors commit to visiting their student for one hour each week at the school.

Although this school year is coming to an end, Ms. Conley said people interested need not wait until next school year to get involved.



"I will talk to them now, no reason to wait. We always have kids who want mentors," she said. "Every time I go to the schools kids stop me in the hall and ask for a mentor."

To celebrate the end of another great year for the REACH program, nearly 300 mentors and students crowded Robins Friendship Park April 12.

Children and their mentors could be found sliding down inflatable slides, playing catch, tossing footballs, jumping in bounce castles or hitting the volleyball and basketball courts. When they weren't burning calories, REACH members could be found munching on hotdogs, hamburgers and chips and slurping on sodas and snow cones. Other activities included face painting, where SpongeBob and Patrick were very popular, and a clown was

busy assembling balloon animals.

All of the kids were excited about the festivities and the opportunity to hang out with their mentors outside of their school's campus.

Dakota Isbell, 8, a student at Pearl Stephens Elementary, was quite shy as he walked around watching other children running around the park. However, his face lit up as he talked about his mentor, Joe Wunderlin, a civilian with the 830th Aircraft Sustainment Group.

"We do fun stuff like play on the computer and math," Dakota said.

Mr. Wunderlin has been involved in the program for 10 years. "He wouldn't take anything for the time with him each week," he said.

Other students agreed that

▶ see REACH, 2A

Three units from Robins earn 2007 CINC awards

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
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Three groups from Robins were recently named winners of the Air Force's 2007 Commander in Chief Installation Excellence Awards' Special Recognition Category.

The Civilian Discipline Team in the 78th Air Base Wing Office of the Staff Judge Advocate, the AAR-47 Infrared Integrated Product Team and the 51st Combat Communications Squadron each earned the prestigious award.

The 78th ABW/JA's civilian discipline team's involvement in a wide range of administrative and criminal actions to ensure good order and discipline of the Robins civilian population earned the team special recognition.

The team, made up of Dee Dial, a labor law attorney in the 78th ABW/JA, and Patricia Leary, a paralegal and program manager who oversees the magistrate court, vehicle forfeiture and on-scene barment programs, serves all five wings and associate units at Robins to ensure

civilian accountability, and to uphold Air Force standards for good order and discipline. The base's prosecution of 17-year-olds in Federal Court gained Department of Defense recognition as the only juvenile prosecution program in the U.S. Air Force.

Ms. Leary said she's proud her team represented Robins at Air Force Materiel Command competition for the award and is honored the team earned Air Force level recognition.

Lt. Col. Nathan Berman, the 78th Air Base Wing's Staff Judge Advocate, said the recognition is a testament of the team's hard work.

"The Civilian Discipline Team primarily consists of Ms. Pat Leary and Ms. Dee Dial, and both of them put a tremendous amount of work into the civilian discipline within Robins Air Force Base," he said. "They had some innovative programs on the installation, such as the Vehicle Forfeiture Program, which I think put us over the edge as far as competition with

▶ see CINC, 2A

Home safe



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Senior Airman Douglas Brown, AADD acting president, hands over the responsibility phone to Senior Airman Bryan Paul. AADD volunteers give military and civilian base ID card holders a free ride home if they have had too much to drink.

AADD volunteers provide safe alternative to drinking and driving

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
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Staff Sgt. Justin Cook knows the effect alcohol can have on people. He has seen it firsthand as a volunteer driver with Airmen Against Drunk Driving.

Sergeant Cook, NCO in charge of network administration in the 52nd Combat Communications Squadron, has volunteered for the past few months for the organization that provides rides home to base identification card holders when their designated driver plan falls through during a night on the town.

"Drunk driving is probably one of the biggest career-ending moves you could make in the Air Force," he said. "So anything I can help to do to disable that particular action, I'm very willing to help out with that."

According to the Alcohol Issues Working Group, there have been 27 driving under the influence incidents involving military and civilians from Robins since October 2006.

Robins is working hard to cut that number, and one tool

they're using to do that is AADD.

Senior Master Sgt. Clifford Powers, a first sergeant for the 19th Maintenance Squadron and acting liaison and adviser for AADD, said NCOs, commissioned officers and Airmen have volunteered weekly to use their own vehicles and gas to give intoxicated base identification card holders an anonymous, safe ride home since 2005.

"We have a telephone number which is 222-0013 and then calls get forwarded to three other cell phones," he said. "We have three individuals on duty 24/7 who rotate every week and we have both male and female drivers available to pick up people."

While identities are kept confidential, AADD drivers are required to check base ID cards of those given rides and must track locations of pick up so the organization can serve people's needs better.

AADD covers the area of north Macon down to Perry. It's at the driver's discretion whether to pick up people outside of the

▶ see AADD, 2A

THINK SAFETY

AIRMEN AGAINST DRUNK DRIVING
To request a ride, call 335-5218, 335-5238 or 335-5236.

SLOW DOWN

Accumulating 12 traffic violation points within a year may cause drivers to lose base driving privileges for up to six months. Speeding violation points are based on the number of miles over the posted speed limit.

WEATHER FORECAST

Courtesy of 78th OSS/OSW

TODAY		SATURDAY		SUNDAY	
77/46		80/45		82/49	

REACH

Continued from 1A

having a mentor is fun and beneficial.

"She's really cool and she helps me get ready for my tests," said Kenyatta Kendrick, 10 of her mentor, 2nd Lt. Regina Forstell, a member of the 580th Aircraft Sustainment Support Squadron.

Kenyatta, a student at Linwood Elementary, said she enjoyed going to the computer lab and visiting two of her favorite Web sites Bratz.com and Disney.com. Along with surfing the Web, she loves playing hangman on the chalkboard and doing Mad Libs with her mentor.

"I love the time we get to spend together. She's an awesome influence on me and she's always having fun, so she inspires me to have fun too," said Lieutenant Forstell.

Though the picnic signals the end of another great year of mentoring for the program, for many of the students and the mentors this is just the beginning of their relationship.

Lisa Corr and Anna Barkemeyer, 8, have been paired together for two years through

the program and the duo spends much of its time each week "reading long books" according to Anna, a student at Lindsey Elementary.

"Seeing her grow, mature and learn and seeing the improvement in just one year is amazing," Ms. Corr said, who plans to continue mentoring Anna until she completes fifth grade.

While some mentors are excited about the possibility of long relationships with their students, many of the active duty members don't always have that luxury.

"We are only here a short time so it's good to make an impact where we can," said 1st Lt. Nick Ferry, a member of the 565th Aircraft Sustainment Squadron, who has been mentoring Kedrick Williams, 10, for three years. "It's definitely a good program for the Air Force. It gives us the opportunity to extend the mentorship we've gotten and guide kids like Kedrick on the right path."

WHAT TO KNOW

To get involved in the REACH program, contact Jywanya Dillinger at 926-5151 or Patti Conley at 322-3267.

AADD

Continued from 1A

coverage area. If not picked up by AADD drivers, the organization provides intoxicated individuals with local taxi cab information for a safe ride.

According to AADD statistics, the organization's volunteers picked up about 85 people in 2005. In 2006, that number jumped to 531 people. During the first quarter of fiscal 2007, AADD has picked up 254 people.

Sergeant Powers said he expects the number of people being picked up to exceed 1,000 by year's end.

AADD is working with the Airman and Family Readiness Center to implement an Alcohol Responsibility Condition program to measure the amount of alcohol related problems at any given time, Sergeant Powers said.

"Like force protection conditions, when something happens,

we're going to have a mechanism in place (where) the entire wing and base gets notified so we can get the information to commanders and the first-line supervisors so they can get eye-to-eye contact with all of their folks and let them know that there's a situation. We'll try to get the word out and talk with them a little bit more," Sergeant Powers said.

He said it's important for people to experience a culture change where people will realize that while drinking isn't a bad thing, drinking and driving don't mix.

The first sergeant said it's all about people taking care of people.

"Taking care of people is our number one (priority)," he said. "People are our number one resource because we can't do anything without them. So if someone gets hurt and can't come to duty because of an alcohol-related incident, then it impacts the entire mission of the United States Air Force."

► IN BRIEF

ROBINS EDUCATION & TRAINING SERVICES DISTANCE LEARNING CENTER APRIL SATELLITE BROADCAST COURSES

Military and civilian customers interested in signing up for broadcast courses should contact Chad Langford, DLC administrator, to assure rooms are available for scheduling and that they have completed all necessary registration steps. AFIT broadcasts (WESS, WMGT, WENV) require approval from supervisor and course manager, and usually must apply to one's job. The Government

Education and Training Network broadcast schedule can be accessed at http://getn.govd.org/GETN_schedule.htm, and April courses include the following titles: Managing Vascular Atherosclerotic Disease, Teen Depression and Self-Injurious Behavior, Living With Grief, Site Coordinator Training, Indoor Environmental Design, Preventing School Violence, Public Health & Public Policy, Air Cargo Procedures, and Project Management, among others. For more information contact Mr. Langford, Building 301, West Wing, Bay C, Room C10, 926-3528, chad.langford@robins.af.mil.

CINC

Continued from 1A

Paula Tarnawsky, AAR-47 Infrared Countermeasures Integrated Product Team program manager in the 542nd Combat Sustainment Group, was equally proud of her 30-plus team members who earned the special recognition for their part in installing the missile detection system that spots surface to air missiles.

"It's outstanding," she said. "There were a lot of people doing a lot of hard work. I think it speaks highly of the quality of people who are employed at

Robins."

Col. Tim Freeman, 542nd Combat Sustainment Group commander, said the award was a result of a true team effort.

"I am very, very proud of the team," he said. "It was a combined effort with the folks from the (402nd) Software Maintenance Group in the 402nd Maintenance Wing and the 542nd Combat Sustainment Group pulling together to address a real world threat to our A-10 aircraft, and we were able to capitalize on funds made available through the Global War on Terrorism funding."

Colonel Freeman said the team used its creativity and

innovation to find a solution for the A-10 in a short timeframe, and the recent recognition just reflects the pride and work ethic of Robins' people.

Maj. Don Grannan, 51st CBCS commander, said the special recognition award exemplifies what his people are made of.

"The men and women of the 51st Combat (Communications Squadron) have been very busy and I am very proud of them," he said. "From Iraq to Pakistan to back home on the Gulf Coast, they have rebuilt infrastructure and helped enhance the quality of life conditions for those in need. But their accomplishments would not have been possible without the teamwork of the entire 5th (Combat Communications Group) and the whole Team Robins community."

In 1984, the President of the United States established the CINC's Annual Award for Installation Excellence to recognize the outstanding efforts of people who operate and maintain Department of Defense installations and who have done the best with their resources to support the mission. The special recognition award is earned by organizations that demonstrated innovative and imaginative thinking leading to noteworthy achievements.

Outdoor water use restrictions remain in effect

During the summer of 2006, the Georgia Environmental Protection Division declared a "Level One" drought condition throughout the State of Georgia, and this condition is still in effect. Under the State Drought Management Plan, a Level One drought condition calls for a ban on outdoor watering between certain hours every day.

Based on these state-wide outdoor watering restrictions and base policy, the following restrictions remain in effect:

Base residents residing in homes with odd-numbered addresses are permitted to use outdoor water on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Sundays between 8 p.m. and 10 a.m.

Base residents residing in homes with even-numbered addresses are permitted to use outdoor water on Mondays, Wednesdays and Saturdays between 8 p.m. and 10 a.m.

WHAT TO KNOW

Find out what is being done across Georgia to conserve water, by visiting the GA EPD Water Conservation website at www.conservewater.georgia.net. To find out more about the rules for outdoor water use and tips for water conservation at Robins, contact Russell Adams, water quality program manager, at 327-8304.

No outdoor water use, which includes watering lawns, washing cars or boats and cleaning driveways, is allowed on Fridays.

"We are proud of the efforts of base residents and organizations in the conservation of our drinking water. Intelligent outdoor water use will continue to be the cornerstone of our conservation efforts as the state

water shortage continues," said Becky McCoy, chief of the Environmental Management Division.

Russell Adams, water quality program manager of the Environmental Management Division said, "We are experiencing a rainfall deficit of more than four inches in the Middle Georgia area. We're closely watching to see if Georgia EPD increases the drought condition to "Level Two" during April. The next level of drought restrictions would include a further restriction of hours we can use water outdoors."

Mr. Adams said base water use restrictions will continue to support the State Drought Management Plan. Routine visual inspections by EM will continue to ensure protection of our water.

Other actions that base residents can use to reduce water

consumption include the following:

► Maintain three to five inches of mulch around landscape plantings to hold moisture in the soil.

► Use a hand-held hose to water only those plants that show signs of wilt.

► Apply water directly to roots, not to leaves – water deeply, not shallowly.

► Use drip or trickle irrigation or a soaker hose instead of a spray nozzle.

► Whenever possible, let rainfall be the main source of water for your landscape.

► Only water trees, shrubs and lawns once or twice per week.

The duration of the current drought can not be determined, but water conservation will help speed recovery when it ends. –

Submitted by the 78th Civil Engineering Group

Robins Airman dines with SECAF during deployment

By Master Sgt. James A. Rush
407th AEG Public Affairs

The Secretary of the Air Force toured 407th Air Expeditionary Group facilities and dined with some of the unit's top Airmen March 28.

The Honorable Michael Wynne dined with the group's recent monthly award nominees, including a Staff Sgt. Makeisha LaPlante deployed from Robins. A bioenvironmental engineering technician at home, Sergeant LaPlante provides worker escort security at Ali Air Base.

"It was a wonderful experience to dine with the SECAF. We discussed other bases that he has visited and what I do here in Iraq and back home at Robins," she said. "He also let us know that he was thankful for all our hard work and he was honored to have us represent the U.S.A. He was a very real and down to earth guy. It was so easy to talk to him and he was funny too so it was a delight to listen to him as well. I am very grateful for the opportunity I had to meet and dine with him."

Secretary Wynne, joined

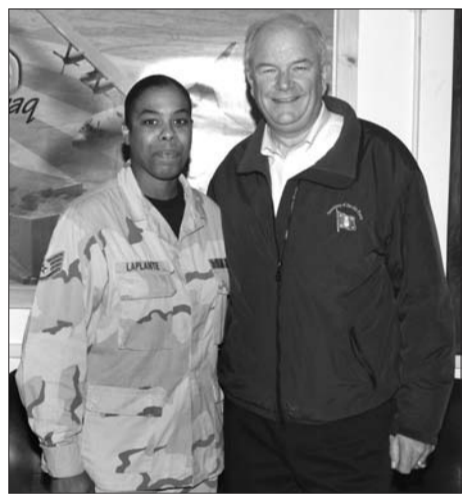
by U.S. Central Command Air Forces Commander Lt. Gen. Gary North, began his visit with a group mission briefing. Col. Larry Kauffman, 407th AEG commander, provided the initial presentation.

More detailed briefings at the 407th AEG's squadrons followed as the secretary heard about the many projects undertaken to improve Ali AB. Airmen from security forces, services, communication, civil engineering, airlift, operations and logistics gave details about their units' accomplishments during Air Expeditionary Force 5/6.

Leaving behind more capable bases for the next group is one of the strong points of the AEF system, according to Secretary Wynne. He last stopped at Ali AB only 18 months ago, but still was impressed with the many changes.

"You get to be here for a short time," he said. "You see what it's like when you arrive and you see how you make it better."

Secretary Wynne's visit was part of a two-base tour of Air Force units in Iraq. He flew into Kirkuk Air Base ear-



courtesy photo

Staff Sgt. Makeisha LaPlante, who is deployed from Robins, was one of several top Airmen to dine with Michael Wynne, Air Force Secretary during a recent visit to Ali Air Base, Iraq.

lier in the day. During his Ali stay, he repeatedly thanked Airmen for their hard work and for representing the United States honorably.

"We say that every Airman is an ambassador and you can look in the mirror in the morning and say that ambassador is

me," he said. "[Through you] people can see that America is a good place to be from."

Prior to leaving, the group's most recent monthly award nominees joined Secretary Wynne for dinner in the headquarters conference room.

Robins Airman who battled cancer, returns to fly missions

By STAFF SGT. JASMINE REIF
NCOIC, 379th AEW Public Affairs

"Before I was diagnosed, I was like everybody else, I thought I was bullet-proof," said Lt. Col. Kurt Barry, 128th Expeditionary Air Command and Control Squadron, E-8C mission crew commander.

In October 2004, while serving a staff tour in Europe, Colonel Barry had his annual physical and was surprised when the doctors told him his white blood cell count was high. He was given several exams, and then a CAT scan; afterwards he said his life was forever changed when the doctor informed him he had cancer.

"It hit me like a ton of bricks. I couldn't see straight, I felt dizzy, I had to sit down and from that moment my life changed forever," Colonel Barry said.

Before he had time to process what was happening, he was rushed into surgery the next day and doctors removed the tumor from his abdomen.

"They operated on me before I even had time to call home," he said. "In retrospect, it was the best thing because I learned that you want to treat cancer like taking a weed infesting a flower bed out with a nuke."

After the operation, Colonel Barry had to wait for the incision to heal before he could go to Walter Reed Army Medical Center for follow-on radiation and chemotherapy.

"The worst experience came when I went to Walter Reed in January 2005, he said. "At first I thought it wasn't so bad. I initially didn't feel tired or any other

effects, but as time wore on I started to feel very exhausted and weak."

The treatments lasted seven weeks and having the support of family and friends and his faith in God, is what he said got him through this difficult time.

During his time at the medical center, he had the opportunity to talk to Lance Armstrong, who had come back from a much more advanced cancer, and went on to win seven Tours de France.

"From that moment, I thought of Lance's words, 'mile by mile...' I would keep my goals in sight and continue to make progress toward them, Colonel Barry said. "As a flier I was put on non-flying status when I was diagnosed, and my goal was to come back and fly again."

Later that year after being diagnosed, he traveled to Paris to see Lance Armstrong win his seventh Tour de France. He said it inspired him to reach his goal of coming back.

He didn't want to be separated from the Air Force, so he started working out every day, even prior to radiation and chemotherapy treatment.



Lt. Col. Kurt Barry, Joint STARS

I would force myself."

When the treatments were over, Colonel Barry went back to Europe, and being on a non-flying tour allowed him the time to figure out how he was going to get back on flying status.

"I needed to pass my Air Force Physical Fitness Test. I knew I wouldn't score a 95 like I had before, but I worked out hard and watched what I ate and scored an 80. That was one more goal accomplished," he said.

He was scheduled to go through a medical evaluation board and needed strong support from his leadership to keep him in the Air Force.

"I was going through regular quarterly medical evaluations, because they want to see if you have anything left over from your cancer. Everything came back negative. I submitted the package to the medical evaluation

"My treatments were at 1 p.m. and I was pretty much a vegetable for the rest of the afternoon after them," he said. "In the morning I would work out the best I could, even if I could only do a mile on the treadmill or half an hour on the cross trainer. It was my inch-by-inch goal. So I would go get treatment, pass out and do it again the next day. Everyday I woke up alive, I told myself 'okay, get moving' and

board and they came back with a recommendation for me to return to flying status. With that, my second and third goals were reached."

His next goal was getting assigned to a combat flying unit, and with today's Air Force he said it wasn't hard. He was re-assigned back to JSTARS, but found much resistance in getting him a waiver to fly again.

"It was probably very complicated to get me qualified to fly again, and I have to thank two squadron commanders, and the 128th ACCS members who helped me, said Colonel Barry. "One squadron commander is deployed here, Lt. Col. Robert Campbell, the 128th EACCS commander. They took the time to help me re-qualify back into the jet. This may seem like a small task, to just call the flight scheduler and tell them to put me on a flight, but for me it was huge because I was finally getting back to flying status."

He passed his check ride and got a waiver to deploy and feels this is his culmination of coming back from a debilitating condition.

"My message is that you can't let anything get you down," Colonel Barry said. "Sure, this is a very life changing event and one of the things that changed for me was I was religious before, but now I'm deeply aware that there is a higher power. I had faith that God would help me through."

He feels that there are four important steps to overcoming a life altering medical condition and that staying focused and making goals will get you through.

"Step one is having the attitude that you're going to fight it," he said. "Medical treatment of cancer has improved since 20 years ago, and I'm thankful for that."

Step two is going through treatment. "I've met people who were fine at the beginning of their treatment, but as the weeks went on they were sick and I was there to help them out," Colonel Barry said. "Just realize that treatment is an ordeal that you have to go through."

Step three is having the support of family and friends. Having those people there for you or to sympathize with you really helps, he said.

Step four is getting back to normal, getting back to where you were and realizing that there are going to be some changes in your life, Colonel Barry said.

"A big change for me is the regular checkups including CAT scans, MRI and blood work. I have no control over it. These checks are necessary since with each "negative" result, that is another step toward remission. Part of getting back to normal is educating other people by saying 'I need this time off for my medical checks, I'm not goofing off, I just have to get this done because I want to continue to serve in the Air Force and defend my country.'"

Colonel Barry says he doesn't live in fear that the cancer might come back, for that would be giving in to the disease. He urges everyone to take their medical exams seriously. If they find out their family has a history of cancer, then get checked out if something doesn't feel right or if they find a bump anywhere.

Records custodian balances giving her all to mission, family

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
holly.birchfield@robins.af.mil

Billie Peacock is the first face patients see when they visit the 78th Medical Group's Occupational Medicine Clinic in Bldg. 207.

The 42-year-old Warner Robins native has been a records custodian in the clinic for 18 months, checking in injured civil service patients, ensuring the proper information is input into the computer system for nurses and maintaining the office's electronic filing system.

"When a patient comes into the clinic for an occupation injury or returning to work or anything related to a job-related injury, I pull their records first and any documentation they may have. I gather that information from them, make sure it gets in their record, and I also sign them into the scheduler to get them ready to see the nurse or doctor that day," she said.

Serving about 400 patients a day, the records custodian sees a lot on the job.

"I've seen head injuries where a patient hit their head on an airplane or something like that and they're bleeding from the head," she said. "We've also had patients come in with chest pains, and automatically, you go into an emergency mode there, thinking heart attack or what not, and you take them straight to a treatment room."

The medical worker wasn't always on the frontlines of patient care.

Mrs. Peacock came to Robins as a contractor working third party collections for the 78th Medical Group in August 2004. A few years later, she moved into the job she loves today.

Mrs. Peacock said making patients feel at ease makes her



U. S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Billie Peacock, 78th Medical Group records custodian.

feel great.

"The best part about my job I would say is the patients that we see here," she said. "I'm a people person and I love to communicate with people. I really take pride in this job that I'm in right now."

The mother of three gives patients their first impression of the clinic, a role she takes to heart.

"As a person, I try to treat people the way I would want to be treated as a patient," she said. "So, I try to be upbeat most of the time. I want to have a smile on my face when I see them because I know a doctor's office or a clinic is the last place that people want to be, so I try to make it pleasant for them. I try to be personal with them and say, 'Hey, how are you today?'"

Asking about a person's well-being and checking on their progress are just some of the things Mrs. Peacock does to make her patients feel cared for.

"I just want to make their first

impression (of me) a friendly impression," she said. "I want to make it a good environment for them."

She tries her best to make her office an inviting place to work as well. Mrs. Peacock is the "morale booster" among her co-workers. She plans birthday, retirement and any other special celebrations to keep people smiling.

That positive attitude is what made Eugene Swinney, administrator of the Occupational Medicine Clinic since 2005, proud to have Mrs. Peacock on his staff.

"She always has a smile on her face," he said. "I think she's a very positive person. She interacts with the patients very well. She's very warm and friendly. She's probably the perfect person for the records office."

Mr. Swinney said he knows when all is said and done, Mrs. Peacock will come through for the office.

"She's someone I can really

count on," he said. "Every day when she's at the window, you know that she's going to greet the customers very friendly. She's going to be very professional and very enthusiastic about her job."

The career woman takes that same heartfelt approach at home too.

When she's not tending to patients' care eight hours a day, five days a week, she's working full-time at home, keeping up with 16-year-old daughter Julie, 13-year-old son Jared and 11-year-old son Justin, and spending time with Joe, her husband of 23 years who is a Warner Robins firefighter.

"With my husband's schedule, the days that he's working, yes, it's a challenge," she said. "I'm a single mom those days, because with his schedule it's 24 (hours) on and 48 (hours) off. When he's gone 24 hours, it is up to me totally to get home before five to get Justin off to ball practice. So, yeah, it is a challenge."

The busy mom does her best to get to work early so she can meet the needs of her family later in the day.

"I have to make myself get in earlier so I can get in my time," she said. "Then, I just rush in the door. I try to plan my meals. If I can't plan my meals, I'm like, 'Okay dad's working. This is an eat-out night.'"

As one of 10 children in her own family, Mrs. Peacock said she knows her family at home is as important as working well with her work family.

When she's not spending time with her husband and children, she's deep in faith at Southside Baptist Church.

While Mrs. Peacock feels her life and what she does is fairly ordinary, those around her think she's extraordinary.

ATS conference draws crowd from throughout the Air Force

By AMANDA CREEL
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Members of the 742nd Combat Sustainment Group hosted the 2007 Automatic Test Systems Worldwide Users' Conference April 10-11 at the Museum of Aviation.

The conference was an opportunity for members of the Air Force community to join members of T e a m Robins and government contractors to exchange ideas and discuss

challenges relating to Automatic Test Systems, which encompasses the testing of all sorts of military equipment, including aircraft and weapons.

"The biggest thing is we bring all the warfighters together and talk about where we are going and hear their issues with the system," said Marty Tucker, deputy director of the 742nd CBSG.

The conference is held once each year and is an opportunity for users, who maintain and run the systems, major commands other air logistics centers' personnel and the 742nd CBSG to come together at a single location for a common goal.

"We are all in it for the same goal. We all want to find ways we can provide better support to the warfighter," said Col. Dennis Beers, commander of the 742nd CBSG.

He added this can be accomplished by having quali-

ty testing and diagnostic systems, that test faster and more efficiently.

"We create a dialog, explain information and talk about challenges in the ATS environment. It gives me an opportunity to address some of the changes we see within the ATS community," Colonel Beers said.

He said one of the new topics that will require some explanation is the RE-21, which will remove the intermediate level maintenance with the test com-

munity. Other conference events included demonstrations of equipment such as Test Equipment Database, information regarding Versatile Depot Automatic Test Set and depot transformation initiatives.

Colonel Beers said this year's conference was important because it gave a venue for users and government contractors to gain information related to the large number of significant changes throughout the Air Force during the past year.

"It is critical we have this so we can get this information out to the contractors and some of the users," Colonel Beers said.

Before the conference got started, the squadron also convened the ATS council. The council discussed reducing proliferation and going to a more common testing system for the Air Force and Department of Defense.

The biggest thing is we bring all the warfighters together and talk about where we are going and hear their issues with the system.

Marty Tucker
Deputy Director, 742nd
Combat Sustainment Group

Base legal offices to participate in Law Day activities with local schools

On May 1, the Warner Robins Air Logistics Center, 78th Air Base Wing and Air Force Reserve Command legal offices will join with local schools to celebrate Law Day.

Law Day is a national day set aside to celebrate the rule of law. Law Day underscores how law and the legal process have contributed to the freedoms that all Americans share.

In 1958, President Dwight D. Eisenhower established Law Day to strengthen our great heritage of liberty, justice and equality under law. In 1961, May 1st was designated by Congress as the official date for celebrating Law Day.

Several activities are planned as part of the celebration. At Feagin Mill Middle School, the members of the base's legal offices will act out a mock trial and the students will act as jurors in the fictional case of State vs. Jack Reynolds. Jack, from the fairy tale "Jack and the Beanstalk," is on trial for the murder of the ogre and his fate will be in the hands of the students.

At Warner Robins High School, the students will witness the Mercer University School of Law mock trial competition team argue their competition mock trial, followed by a question and answer session. Lastly, all Houston County High schools will be invited to participate in an essay writing contest.

Law Day celebrations also provide an opportunity to help youth and the larger

community recognize the role of courts in this democracy and the importance of jury service to maintaining the integrity of the courts. Law Day programs are designed to help people



understand how the rule of law keeps us free and how our legal system strives to achieve justice.

Thousands of Law Day programs are conducted each year for youth and adults across the country.

The 2007 Law Day theme is "Liberty Under Law: Empowering Youth, Assuring Democracy."

Several hundred thousand court cases each year involve abused and neglected children. On average, American courts hear more than 4,400 delinquency cases every day. The future of our nation is in the hands of our young people. We all can and should play a role in assuring America's future by addressing the needs of youth and focusing on the issues affecting them today.

All young people benefit by understanding their rights and responsibilities under the law. This understanding will make them better citizens and participants in government.

This year's theme is designed to prompt us to consider how the law can better serve the needs and interests of young people. It also encourages us to assure that our youth are equipped with the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively make their voices heard within our democracy.

— *Capt. Lynn Schmidt, 78th Air Base Wing deputy Staff Judge Advocate.*

► IN BRIEF

TMO OFFICE

Summer is almost here and this means the Robins Traffic Management Office is moving into its busiest time of the year, peak-move season. Peak-move season is May through September. The goal at TMO is to ensure PCS moves are as smooth and effortless as possible and the customer receives quality service. To make this happen, and to better serve the customer, its recommended that people visit the office immediately upon receipt of PCS orders. During this busy season a minimum of three weeks notice to schedule a pack and pick up date for household goods shipments is required. Understand and keep in mind this TMO fully supports the current world situation in many varied capacities while balancing the stringent demands of day-to-day operations. Office hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Mondays Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays and 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Wednesdays.

For more information call the customer service section at 222-0119.

CHRISTMAS IN APRIL

The Rebuilding Together Warner Robins affiliate will host its National Rebuilding Day event April 28 at the city recreation center on Watson Boulevard beginning at 7 a.m.

The mission is to preserve and revitalize houses and communities, assuring low-income homeowners live in warmth, safety and independence. The affiliate provides necessary repairs free of charge to existing homeowners. These repairs often include home modifications, roofing, plumbing, and electrical repairs and improvements. The Warner Robins affiliate provides year-round services.

For more information visit <http://www.rebuildingtogether.org/index.php>.

Lean is a journey, not a destination

For the love of music

Robins Elementary School music teacher helps kids strike chord

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
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For some folks, including the music teacher at Robins Elementary School, music is in the blood.

"I grew up in a family that was musical," said Sheila Clopton, who teaches music to kids in pre-kindergarten through sixth. "Although it was a small community, I had wonderful music teachers."

Her brother is an organist. Her sister was a band director for 24 years before becoming an elementary school music teacher. Everyone in her immediate family has a knack for some type of instrument and a melodic voice.

She even married a music man, Terry, with whom she has shared her life and love of music for nearly 27 years.

Mrs. Clopton found her love of music inside the walls of her hometown church in Eatonton, Ga. She first sang there at age 6. Her music involvement continued as she grew older. In high school and college, she directed children's choir at her church.

So, it's no wonder that the 47-year-old mother of two followed her dream of becoming a music teacher. She had plenty of inspiration all around her.

"My piano teacher, Amelia Wilson, was not only my piano teacher, she was like my second mom," she said. "She was the one who encouraged me and accompanied me to sing in talent shows back in my hometown."

In the fifth grade, the eclectic music lover made up her mind that she would follow in the footsteps of her music teacher, Lethonia Benniken.

"At the end of my fifth grade year, I went home and told my parents, 'I know what I want to do with my life. I want to be an elementary music teacher just like Ms. Benniken,'" she said.

The then aspiring music teacher earned a bachelor degree in music education from Georgia College and State University in Milledgeville, Ga. in 1985, and went on to get her masters degree in early childhood education at the same college in 1988.

Each year for the past 24 years, she has taught as many as 500 children how to find rhythm, read music and appreciate the art. But, her passion for music has remained strong over the years.

"All students begin learning by being exposed to different types of music, being able to feel the field pulse and play instruments on the beat," she

said. "Then, you move from there to teach them rhythms, how music rhythms have different patterns, long sounds and short sounds. Then, you begin to introduce them to the music symbols like quarter notes, half notes, and whole notes, and they begin to be able to read those rhythms, not just hear and repeat something they hear."

The music teacher admits that it's not always easy to teach the subject.

"I try to expose all kids to music and give them all the same opportunities," she said. "Sometimes it's a challenge if there's a child that has a (learning) disability. Sometimes you have to make



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP
Sheila Clopton works with pre-kindergarten students on the musical selection the class will sing for the "We Love America" program.

accommodations. You want them to get the same value out of that lesson that all kids do."

That dedication to her job is noticed by nearly everyone that crosses her path.

Danielle Goins, mother of Salaam, a fourth grader at Robins Elementary School,

and Sandiq, a sixth grader at the school, said she's grateful her sons have such a caring teacher.

"She's wonderful," Ms. Goins said. "She stays after school in her spare time to make sure children learn and get it and help children that

need help. She puts her all into the school to make sure every child is not left behind in music."

Jane Hamilton, guidance counselor and publicist for Robins Elementary School, said her co-worker is a marvel at the school.

"There is a glow and a brightness about Sheila that never seems to go out," she said. "She is the energizer bunny at Robins Elementary. She's always thinking about what to do next. Her planning is meticulous."

Mrs. Hamilton said many on the school's staff stand amazed at Mrs. Clopton's spunk.

"She's phenomenal," she said. "She really is. Her chorus gets asked every year to sing for different groups. This year, so far, they've sung for the BX at Christmas. They've been singing for six years I guess for

the tree lighting service at Robins."

The guidance counselor said the group has performed throughout the Middle Georgia community, as well as taking their learning of music to concerts and other events in the community. All the while, the spirited music teacher has been right there leading the way.

As with many teachers, Mrs. Clopton said she's thrilled when she hears about former students who have made music their careers.

One of Mrs. Clopton's former students went on to perform on New York's Broadway, and another past student is now a music teacher as well.

The music teacher continues to make the most of each day she is given the opportunity to help her students appreciate the art of music. After all, it's in her blood.

Robins Elementary School Notice

Parents, we understand there are rumors floating around that Robins Elementary will not be in session for the upcoming school year. We would like to dispel this rumor and inform you that Robins Elementary will be up and running as usual for the 2007-2008 school year.

If you live on the main base and have children of school age that are new to our system, we would be delighted to help you with the registration process. If your children already attend Robins Elementary the registration forms for the upcoming school year will be sent home with them to be updated and returned to your child's teacher. The first day of school for the 2007-2008 school year will be August 10. We hope this information will help you with your vacation planning.

— Bill Rose, Robins Elementary School principal



U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

Above, Chief Ranger of the Houston County Georgia Forestry Commission, Ken Hanson presents Col. Theresa Carter, 78th Air Base Wing commander, with Robins' 14th consecutive Tree City USA plaque.



At right, Maj. Gen. Tom Owen, Warner Robins Air Logistics Center commander, is joined by son, T. Jeff and wife, Mary Beth in planting an Andrew Jackson Southern Magnolia in memory of his father Robert J. Owen.

Robins Historic Tree Ceremony honors three

By AMANDA CREEL
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More than 100 people gathered on the parade field in the Robins Historic Forest April 12 to honor the lives of three men.

The Robins Historic Tree Ceremony was an opportunity to memorialize Team Robins and their family members through a living tribute.

Col. Theresa Carter, commander of the 78th Air Base Wing, said she felt the ceremony was the perfect way to pay it forward by dedicating trees in honor of loved ones.

Brig. Gen. Dennis Bailey, director of installations and mission support for the Air Force Reserve Command, read the Arbor Day proclamation and after signing the proclamation Colonel Carter declared April 12 Arbor Day at Robins Air Force Base.

The trees planted in the Robins Historic Forest are the offspring of trees located on properties owned by or associated with famous Americans. There were three trees included in this year's ceremony in recognition of members of Team Robins and their loved ones.

The first was an Andrew Jackson Southern Magnolia in memory of Robert J. Owen, the father of Maj. Gen. Tom Owen. The magnolia, which was planted by President Andrew Jackson in honor of his wife, Rachel, is still pictured on the 20-dollar bill and is still standing on White House southern lawn.

The second was an Aldo Leopold White Oak, planted in memory of Mike Breazeale, who was a member of the environmental management team. The oak was named for Aldo Leopold, America's first

wildlife biologist, and was planted near his weekend retreat named the Leopold Shack during efforts by himself and his family to help restore the land surrounding the shack.

The third tree was a Manassas Red Oak, in memory of Larry Sullivan, who was a part of the information technology team. The oak serves as a silent tribute to the brave Americans who fought in the two historic battles fought at Bull Run in Virginia.

During the ceremony, Robins was also presented with its 14th consecutive Tree City USA plaque for its outstanding accomplishments in preserving and perpetuating the growth of trees at Robins Air Force Base, said Ken Hanson, chief of the Houston County Georgia Forestry Commission, who presented the plaque to Colonel Carter.

SAVE A TREE, PLEASE RECYCLE THIS NEWSPAPER

"On a daily basis, our Airmen are involved in air and ground combat actions. Because we are Airmen warriors, many have been wounded -- and many have paid the ultimate sacrifice.

Our Service has a long history of taking care of its Airmen. It's important that every one of our Airmen know the Air Force is committed to providing the same level of resources, planning and implementation toward caring for our combat-related ill and injured as it does in preparing Airmen for deployment and combat." — *Chief Master Sergeant of the Air Force Rodney J. McKinley*

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SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the 78th Air Base Wing Office of Public Affairs at Robins Air Force Base, Ga. All photographs are Air Force photographs unless otherwise indicated. Stories and briefs must be submitted as a Word document. They may not exceed two pages, double spaced. They must be typed using the Times New Roman font, 12-point type, with 1-inch margins. All submissions will be edited to conform to Associated Press style. Submission does not guarantee publication.

Submissions must be received by 4 p.m. the Monday prior to the requested Friday publication. They should be e-mailed to lanorris.askew@robins.af.mil. Submissions should be of broad interest to the base populace. If there are further questions, call Kendahl Johnson at (478) 222-0804.

DELIVERY

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Robins Combat Run



U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Sixty-three active duty military members of Team Robins take off from the starting line at the Combat Cross Country Race Friday. Competitors ran a three kilometer course with nine-pound body bars.

Fort Dix grinds combat mindset into Airmen

I just returned from a training course where two people suffered concussions, one person dislocated his shoulder and one broke his hip, all during a two-week period.

This is not a commentary about safety. It's about warrior ethos.

I'm in the final stages of prep before deploying to Iraq, and now, Advanced Combat Skills Training is an Air Force requirement. Our training was done at Fort Dix, N.J., but the Air Force sends Airmen to other places for this course as well. The training was how I imagine Army life is like. For example, I shared quarters with 11 other Airmen. It smelled bad.

I realized sharing a room with numerous people is a small sign of what's ahead, and I'm not talking about odor. The Air Force is changing, and this course is a witness to that reality.

For 14 days I carried an M-16 with me everywhere, even when I slept. I learned how to take a building by force and secure it as a defensive position. I learned how to separate a person's neck from his spine and I learned how to attack the most sensitive parts of the body. I also learned how to respond to direct and indirect fire. I learned details about convoy operations, night operations and first aid while also under fire.

Furthermore, I'm now familiar with the appearance of improvised explosive devices.

Make no mistake, this course was demanding. There was no time off and there were limited hot meals. The average day exceeded a physically demanding 12 hours. Unfit people suffered.

I witnessed pulled muscles, exhaustion and multiple injuries. One Airman dislocated his shoulder while breaking down a door. I also witnessed bravery and fortitude among many of our younger and older Airmen. Of course, there also was unprecedented whining from a few others (not on my fire team).

One of the most valuable lessons, to me, was training in sim-munitions. I confess I used a few expletives when was shot. The sim-munitions are like hyper paintballs. They use gun powder to propel plastic bullets from a 9mm-like casing. The plastic contains a paint and detergent mix. They travel at about 400 feet per second, and I still have the marks to prove it. The training at Fort Dix used sim-munitions to train us how to clear a building. It consisted mostly of close-range suburban fire fights.

Yes, these are signs the Air Force is changing, and if you don't start taking your physical training seriously, a time is coming when you won't fit in.

In other words, you won't be taken seriously.

The Army and Marines aren't facing terrorists alone anymore. Airmen are now putting boots down right beside them, and in some cases, in front of them. This is serious. It's more than being able to save your own hide in the desert sand. If exhaustion takes you down at war before the AK-47 does, other people will die too.

Until now, the Air Force has engrained in me a mindset of air-base defense. I remember seeing people get winded from checking M8 tape after a mock attack during exercises. Now, we're being taught aggressive fighting maneuvers like infantry wedge formations.

Instead of running from an attack, this class teaches us how to advance on it and neutralize the threat. This exhilarated me. I remember during the ground tactics portion of the training when simulated artillery rounds exploded near us. It compressed my chest and drove grit in my face. After diving for cover, my four-man team was ordered to advance and kill — a much different mind set than I'm used to.

We moved right and circled around to flank. This event, even in training, was nerve-wracking. The adrenaline monkey was on my back, flogging me. As a result, we made some mistakes and all four of us "died." But

here's the point: I learned from the mistakes we made and I learned how I respond under pressure. I died in a place where I can come back to life and try again. So if and when I face the adrenaline monkey in Iraq, it won't be so new.

I will point out that some Air Force career fields have been training hard like this a long time; security forces and Red Horse Airmen are just two examples. Further still, we now have 30,000 Airmen deployed in support of operations Enduring Freedom and Iraqi Freedom and 8,000 are deployed in Army positions, in what are called "in lieu of" tasks.

A good number of those 30,000 Airmen are people with "desk jobs" like me. I'm just a print journalist working in public affairs; some of my class peers were judge advocates and chaplain's assistants. All career fields are now getting this combat training. I personally feel like it's about time the Air Force trains like this. Maybe now Airmen will start getting the same respect as Soldiers and Marines.

We in the Air Force are beginning to harden, and I think it's about time.

— This commentary was written by Tech. Sgt. Russell Wickie Air Combat Command Public Affairs.

Lt. General: Our responsibility as U.S. Airmen

The Air Force of the United States of America possesses the most destructive, fast, far-reaching military capability in the world. Such potentially devastating power demands the highest levels of responsibility and commitment by every Airman.

The president of the United States relies on America's Air Force to fly, fight and win across a range of military operations. Air Force operations include the employment of nuclear missiles, bomber aircraft equipped with nuclear weapons, and conventional bomber and fighter aircraft with precision weapons that can destroy and damage enemy capabilities more effectively than any other military force on the planet.

Every Airman contributes to the mission, development, support, deployment and employment of Air Force weapons systems. Covering the wide spectrum of combat flying, space, airlift and cyber operations, intelligence and surveillance, engineering and acquisition,

logistics and maintenance; we are all responsible to every citizen of our nation for their Air Force.

In fact, we all share an oath to defend the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic; and ensure the high-cost, decisive combat capabilities and weapons systems of the Air Force are ready, able and combat effective.

Our responsibility for the overwhelming destructive physical power of the Air Force should drive Airmen to always look closely at ourselves in our conduct, mission competence, and the leadership standards we demonstrate among all Soldiers, Sailors, Airmen, Marines, Coast Guardsmen and military civilians. Our Air Force commissioned and noncommissioned officer force must be constantly committed to set the highest standards for those we lead inside and outside our Air Force.

Air Force officers and non-commissioned officers need to

put ever-increasing emphasis on reaching deep inside ourselves and find the courage and commitment to match and exceed standards of appearance and leadership credibility among all the U.S. military services.

Exemplary physical readiness and uniform appearance are fundamental to Air Force leader credibility. "Excellent" fitness test scores for officers and noncommissioned officers should be a self-motivated personal and professional requirement.

Respected command presence, based on self study and communication skills, is essential for effective leadership and requires lifetime dedication to continuous self improvement. Mission competence in the safe, effective, and winning employment of our nation's most expensive and destructive weapons systems demands absolute pass-fail standards for membership in America's Air Force. For all those in our world watching us, the mission com-

petence of Airmen should never be in doubt.

The level of destructive capabilities of our Air Force must also be matched by exemplary levels of individual moral courage. If America's citizens are to trust us with employment of the devastating nuclear and conventional capability of air and space delivered weapons, they must know they can rely on each of us to be honorable and uphold the nation's highest standards of personal conduct. America deserves to have complete confidence and trust in every single Airman because of the authority and responsibility they have given us.

To lie or cheat or steal, or tolerate such behavior among us, breaks the bond that must be guaranteed to Americans who trust their lives and the enduring future of our nation to Airmen.

For Airmen, there can be no higher calling, so help us God.

— This commentary was written by Lt. Gen. Bruce A. Wright United States Forces Japan.



Col. Theresa Carter
78th Air Base Wing
commander

Commander's Action Line

Action Line is an open door program for Robins Air Force Base personnel to ask questions, make suggestions or give kudos to make Robins a better place to work and live.

Remember that the most efficient and effective way to resolve a problem or complaint is to directly contact the organization responsible:

- Security Forces 327-3445;
- Services Division 926-5491;
- EEO Office 926-2131;
- MEO 926-6608;
- Employee Relations 926-5802;
- Military Pay 926-3777;
- IDEA 926-2536;
- Base hospital 327-7850;
- Civil engineering 926-5657;
- Public Affairs 926-2137;
- Safety Office 926-6271;
- Fraud, Waste and Abuse hotline 926-2393;
- Housing Office 926-3776.

This gives the organization a chance to help you, as well as a chance to improve their processes.

To contact the Action Line, call 222-0804 or for the quickest response, e-mail one of the following addresses: If sending from a military e-mail system select, Robins Commanders Action Line from the Global Address List.

If sending from a commercial e-mail account, use action.line@robins.af.mil.

Readers can also visit <https://www.mil.robins.af.mil/action-line.htm>. Please include your name and a way of reaching you so we can provide a direct response.

Action Line items of general interest to the Robins community will be printed in the Robins Rev-Up. Anonymous action lines will not be processed.

Letter to the Editor

I just read the commentary on crosswalks by General Heathold (Rev-Up, April 13, 2007). Reading that article made me think of all the times I have had to slam on the brakes because someone assumed I would be able to stop for them.

I have served on this base for seven years, and now I work here as a civilian contractor. I've noticed here, more than anywhere else, the people using the crosswalks seem to think they are invincible once they step into it. Pedestrians pay no attention to traffic or what is coming toward them as they step out. They assume everyone will stop for them. I've had people step in front of me while they are reading newspapers and doing things, not even looking up. Most people don't even break stride when they come to a crosswalk; they just keep going.

Pedestrians have a responsibility for their own safety first. Ensuring it is safe to step into traffic is one thing, but to step into traffic and assume it is safe is another. I've never been on any other base where people had such an attitude on the use of crosswalks. They place an awful lot of assumed responsibility on the drivers of this base when they give no regard to the traffic situation they are stepping into.

If they were downtown, would these same people step from the curb without looking first? I doubt it. They know they would stand a good chance of being run down. Being on this base seems to give them a false sense of security; if they are hurt everything will be taken care of by the government. But that's no good to them if they're dead. Steel will win over flesh every time.

People must look out for their own safety. No, they shouldn't cross away from a crosswalk, but they should also understand that even at a crosswalk they need to be alert for traffic. Not every driver is going to see them, and pedestrians should know that.

— James Hurlock (USAF Ret),

Sexual Assault Awareness Month at Robins



U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

As part of Sexual Assault Awareness Month, the 78th Security Forces Squadron in coordination with the base Sexual Assault Response coordinator is conducting a series of self-defense and safety tips classes during Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Top, Master Sgt. William Craig explains how Tech. Sgt. Ginger Hewitt uses leverage to throw off an attacker played by Staff Sgt. Mark French.

Above left, Staff Sgt. Mark French shows Lynda Mikanowicz how to break free from the hold of an attacker.

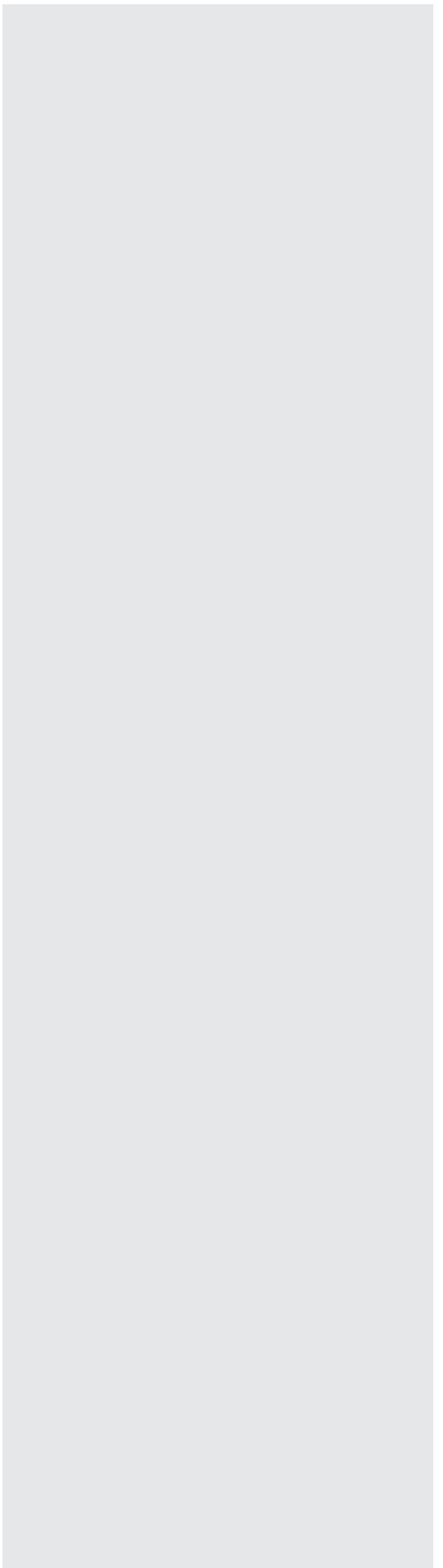
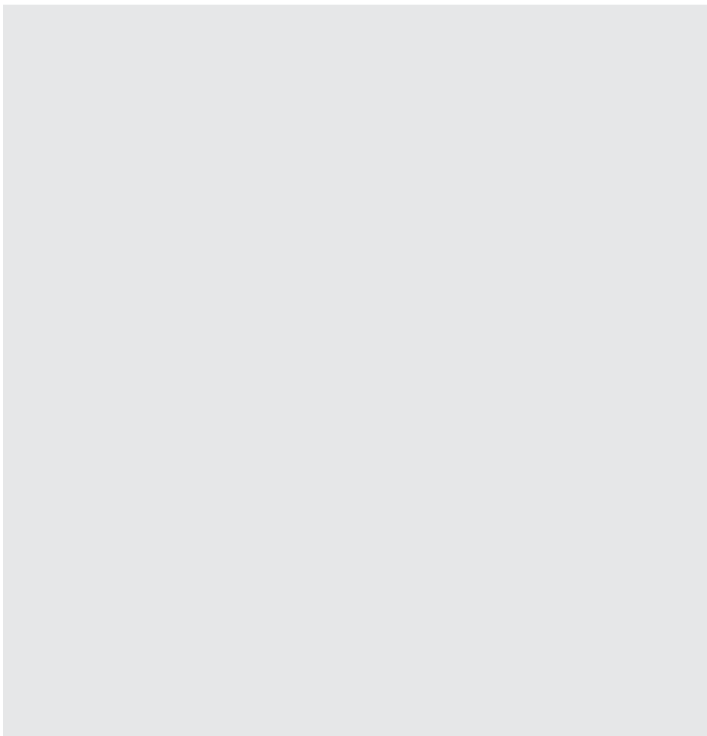
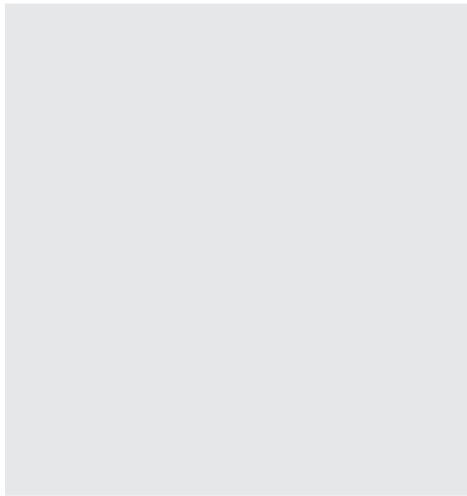
Above right, Dr. Mark Lafferty, a local obstetrician and gynecologist, was guest speaker at the Sexual Assault Awareness Luncheon April 5.

▶ Robins announces retirees

The following people have been announced as optional civilian retirees for the end of March and the first of April.

- ▶W. Mark Scott
- ▶Eleanor Sisneros
- ▶Marvin Sweeting
- ▶David Tucker
- ▶Jerry Walker
- ▶Marcy Zampa

- ▶Terry Ballard
- ▶David Boyd
- ▶Jackie Carter
- ▶Peggy Catlett
- ▶Lewayne Davis
- ▶Marie Davis
- ▶Kelly Dawsey
- ▶John Dupree
- ▶Rowland Fletcher
- ▶Betty Fultz
- ▶Jasper Holcomb Jr.
- ▶James Huffman III
- ▶Phillip Johnson
- ▶William Maki
- ▶Shirley Maurer
- ▶Gary Moyses
- ▶Patricia Peck
- ▶Anne Perry
- ▶Daniel Register
- ▶Wayne Schmidt



What Lies Beneath?



U.S. Air Force photos by SUE SAPP

Top, Several children of military members who were stationed at Robins are buried in the Feagin Cemetery. Above left, Marilyn Rodgers, natural resources technician, wipes debris away from bricks marking a grave at King Cemetery on the north end of Robins. Above right, Stephen Hammack, Robins archeologist, looks on as Matthew Barner points out some anomalies that the GPR has come across.

Base cemeteries undergo ground penetrating radar search for unmarked graves

By AMANDA CREEL
amanda.creel.ctr@robins.af.mil

Few people put much thought into which way the headstones of a cemetery face.

However, it took just moments for Matthew Barner, a senior geophysicist, to notice the orientation in the Feagin Cemetery seemed backwards.

He said graves typically were placed where those buried could sit-up and face the eastern sky, however the Feagin Cemetery located behind the Robins Child Development Center West, appeared to face the West. This immediately piqued his curiosity and the curiosity of Stephen Hammack, base archeologist.

Mr. Barner, an employee with the URS Corporation, was visiting Robins in an effort to use Ground Penetrating Radar to identify any unmarked graves at the Feagin Cemetery and the King Cemetery.

Most of the King Cemetery graves are marked by stacks of bricks, while in the Feagin Cemetery seven graves are marked by headstones.

Mr. Barner and Mr. Hammack spent two days at the cemeteries using GPR and an EM 38, or Electromagnetic-Induction Meter, to identify areas where the ground might have been excavated or disturbed.

"The best way to describe GPR is it is the engineering equivalent of an ultrasound," Mr. Barner said.

The GPR sends radar waves into the ground and back and the reflections from their journey can help determine what is beneath the surface, such as being able to tell if someone had hand dug a trench for a burial site or how large a body is in a burial site.

"You will not see a huge reflection for an infant, like you would for an adult," Mr. Barner said.

The GPR system can measure up to six feet deep accurately and many of the possible sites identified as possible gravesites were about two feet below the surface, which is shallower than Mr. Barnes expected. However, Mr. Hammack said it was not uncommon for graves in historic cemeteries to be found a few feet or even inches away from the surface.

"There have been sites found where graves and bones are literally inches under the surface," Mr. Hammack said.

He added as time passes erosion and construction work or bulldozing on the land can make the grave shallower.

One of the mysteries of the Feagin Cemetery is whether or not the fence enclosing the cemetery includes all of the bur-



King Cemetery is located in a wooded area on the north end of Robins.

ial sites, Mr. Hammack said.

As Mr. Barner continued to scan the grounds in and around the cemetery, he found several areas he described as "a textbook reflection of a grave."

Near a large live oak tree just outside the cemetery's gates, Mr. Barner found what appeared to be three side-by-side graves.

Inside the gates only seven marked graves remain, but several others are expected to have been lost over time.

"Some of the graves could have been marked by semi-permanent markers that deteriorate over time such as wooden markers," Mr. Hammack said. "It was not uncommon for people to not have the money to mark all of the family's gravesites."

infants of military members at Robins were buried in the 1940s and '50s.

Once the GPR cart passed over the site like a push mower, the EM 38 passed over the cemetery's ground twice – once to indicate soil disturbances and a second time to indicate the presence of metals, such as in lead coffins, first used in the 1850s, or nails used in wooden coffins.

"If people were buried with jewelry it might give off a signal as well," Mr. Barner said.

At the King family cemetery, none of the graves are marked with names, but the sites are marked with bricks on the ground arranged like a slab, Mr. Hammack said.

"Paying attention to vegetation and trees can be very important when trying to locate unmarked gravesites," he said.

The existence of the Yucca plant at the King Cemetery is important because about 100 years ago it became popular to plant it at the head of a grave stone, Mr. Hammack said.

Though many of the areas explored had reflections similar to a gravesite more research is needed before conclusions can be drawn, the pair explained.

The reflection of a gravesite could be confused with large rocks, utility lines, large tree roots or anything else in the ground that is distinctly differ-

ent than the soil, Mr. Barner said.

This was not the first time the cemeteries have been examined to determine if unmarked graves exist.

In 1993 a study estimated as many as 32 gravesites at the Feagin Cemetery and as many as 64 at the King Cemetery. During the original examinations of the gravesites, tile probe rods were used to search for gravesites.

"They would just poke the ground and probe around looking for a shaft, if the probe rod got stuck near the surface there was nothing there, but if it all of a sudden sinks into the ground then there could be a grave there," Mr. Hammack said.

The results of the present study will be combined with the probing study done earlier and other historical facts and used to make recommendations for the two cemeteries such as extending the fence at the Feagin Cemetery if it is determined gravesites are present outside the fence. Gravesites are protected by federal and Georgia laws, Mr. Hammack said.

After completing the search last week, Mr. Hammack said he does not believe the amount of unidentified graves is as great as the original study estimated, but he is fairly confident there are several unmarked graves at both locations.

2B ■ The Robins Rev-Up ■ April 20, 2007

TODAY

A sexual assault prevention walk will be held today starting at 11 a.m. For more information call the fitness center at 926-2128.

Let's Give The World A Hand is today. Yard work is for families of our deployed men and women of Robins on or off-base. If you know anyone who can use a helping hand, contact the community center at 926-2105. The community center will be the hub of this all-day event, providing equipment and support.

Several focus groups will be conducted within the next 30 days to collect information regarding Robins' membership clubs. The focus groups will be conducted in the Daedalian Room of the Officers' Club, located in Bldg. 542. Light refreshments will be available during the sessions. Volunteers will receive a dining coupon for \$10.

Focus Group Schedule:
►Wednesday at noon for Civilians; sign up by today
►May 2 at 6 p.m. for Retirees; sign up by April 27
►May 4 at 3:30 p.m. for Officers; sign up by April 30
►May 14 at noon for Enlisted; sign up by May 9
Family members who fall into any of the above categories are welcome to participate in focus groups. For more information, call Services Marketing at 926-5492.

SATURDAY

A teen lock-in will be held at the youth center today starting at 8 p.m. and ending at 7 a.m. Sunday. The cost is \$12. For more information call the youth center at 926-2110.

Anyone who would like to volunteer to be a chaperone at the event should contact Marvin Hawkins at 926-5601 or email at marvin.hawkins@robins.af.mil.

SUNDAY

Texas Hold 'Em will be held every Sunday with sign up at 1:30 p.m. and games at 2 p.m. Texas Hold 'Em is open to all ranks and grades. Prizes include the following: first place \$85 gift card, second place \$55 gift card, third place \$35 gift card and fourth place \$25 gift card. The entertainment fee is \$10 for club members and \$15 for nonmembers and includes snacks and non-alcoholic beverages. For more information call the enlisted club at 926-7625.

MONDAY

Triple S Mondays with soup, salad and sandwiches has arrived at the officers' club from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. for \$5.95. Enjoy made to order sandwiches or a full course salad bar with a variety of rotating gourmet soups. New special: soup and half sandwich combo only \$5.25. Lunch is open to all ranks and grades.

TUESDAY

Enjoy dining at the Robins Officers' Club every Tuesday through Thursday from 5:30 to 8 p.m. and every Friday and Saturday from 6 to 9 p.m. Dinner is open to all ranks and grades. For more information call the officers' club at 926-2670.

Free tacos and draft specials are available to club members Tuesdays from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. at the Robins Enlisted Club at 926-7625.

All retirees get a free fountain drink or iced tea with a \$4 minimum purchase when they show their retiree I.D. card along with coupon on page 17 of the April Edge on Tuesdays in April. For more information call Pizzeria Depot at 926-0188.

WEDNESDAY

Enjoy pizza on Wednesdays from 5 to 7 p.m. at the Robins Officers' Club.

Enjoy Wednesdays at the enlisted club with M.U.G. night and karaoke with DJ X-Man. Bring your own mug (up to 30 ounces) and get refills for only \$2 from 7 p.m. to closing. Cost for entry is \$2 for nonmembers. For more information call 926-7625.

UPCOMING

A First Friday "Cinco de Mayo Fiesta" will be held at your Robins Enlisted and Officers' Clubs from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. May 4. Play break the Piñata, hot tamale game, trivia and more. First Friday means great food, chances to win cash and prizes, entertainment and drink specials. Entertainment will be DJ Willie Nelson. Members must be present to win. Cost is members free and nonmembers \$5. For more information call the enlisted club at 926-7625 or the officers' club at 926-2670.

Private pilot ground school registration will be held now through May 4 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. with school starting May 7 through June 30. One hundred percent tuition is available for active duty military. Cost is \$575 and is due at the time of registration. Ground school is a 45 to 50-hour course, lasting approximately 10 weeks and scheduled on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 6 to 8 p.m. Register

DONATE YOUR LEAVE

Employee-relations specialists at 926-5307 or 926-5802 have information and instructions concerning requests to receive or donate annual leave. To have an approved leave recipient printed in the Robins Rev-Up, wings should send information to Lanoris Askew

Home away from home

U.S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Sue and Al Barry from Michigan parked their 5th wheel and enjoyed the FamCamp at Robins recently. The Robins FamCamp office is located in Bldg. 1305 and is open Monday - Saturday 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. Fam Camp has full hookups (sites have 20 amps, 30 amp and 50 amp service available), showers, restrooms and laundry facilities. Costs \$12 per night, \$77 per week or \$285 for 30 days. For more information call 926-4500.



soon as classroom seating is limited. For more information call the aero club at 926-4867.

Bring your lawn chairs and blankets to Movies in the Park at Robins Park April 27 for a family-feature presentation of "The Secret of Nimh." The movie will start at dark. Concessions will be on sale. For more information call the community center at 926-2105.

A yard sale will be held May 5 from 8 a.m. to noon in front of the enlisted club, Bldg. 956. Set up starts at 7:15 a.m. Cost is \$7 per table (limit 3 per person). Tables are reserved on a first-come first-served basis. For more information call the community center at 926-2105.

The 17th annual Military Team Bass Fishing tournament will be held May 6-11 at Lake Barkley State Park, Cadiz, Kentucky. Cost is \$160 per two-man team. The tournament is open to all active duty, reserve and retired military and their spouses and children, DOD civilians and contractors from all branches of the military. For more information, visit www.militarybass.com or call the community center at 926-2105.

A National Provider Appreciation Day is held May 11. Take time out to thank your child's provider for all the unselfish work, compassion and strong family values that child care providers demonstrate each day.

The Artist Craftsman and Photography Gallery program will be held May 14 through 18. For more information call the arts and crafts center at 926-5282.

A "Picnic with Altitude" will be held May 12, June 9 and July 14 at the Aero Club. Check out the current fleet, information on avionics and equipment, meet current and new instructors, talk with other pilots and explore class opportunities. Food and prizes will be available to all members, prospective members and their families of the Robins Aero Club. Membership is open to all military, DOD civilians and retirees. For more information call the aero club at 926-4867.

Start building those beds for the eighth annual Bed Race to be held May 30 at 11 a.m. Teams will consist of five people (four pushers and one rider) and will meet in the parking lot of Bldg. 956. Winning teams will receive first, second and third place trophies and a People's Choice award for the best looking bed. For complete details or to enter a team call Lynne Brackett at 926-2105.

Robins Officers' and Enlisted Club members and their families may apply for the Air Forces Services club membership scholarship program, sponsored by Coca Cola and Chase Bank. Air Force-wide six scholarships will be awarded: first prize, \$6,000; second, \$5,500; third, \$4,500; fourth, \$3,500; fifth, \$3,000 and sixth, \$2,500. Nominees must provide an essay of no more than 500 words. The essay theme is commemorating 60 years of air supremacy "Why is Air Superiority Critical Today." Essays exceeding 500 words (excluding title) will be disqualified. Participant must also provide a single-page summary of their long-term career goal and accomplishments. Essays must be typed in 12-point Arial or Times New Roman font, single-spaced, with double-spacing between paragraphs, and submitted on standard white bond paper with one-inch margins top and bottom and one-and-one-quarter inch on left and right sides and submitted on CD or floppy disk with one hard copy of the essay. Applicants must also provide a copy of their college or university acceptance letter. Nominations are due to Services Marketing, located in Bldg. 983 by June 15. For additional information, visit www.p.afs.af.mil/clubs or call

926-5492. No federal endorsement of sponsor intended.

Outdoor Recreation For more information on these programs and events call outdoor recreation at 926-4001

►Take part in paintball fun with Outdoor Adventure at On Target Paintball May 18 from 4 to 8 p.m. Cost is \$28 per person and includes a wooded area for daylight shooting, and a lit field for night speed ball. Paintball equipment will be available for use as well as an air conditioned room for breaks. Meet at On Target Paintball at 3:45 p.m. Persons 18 years old and older are permitted to play. Persons 10 to 17 years old may come with an adult over 18 years of age. Participants may also purchase paintballs for \$45 a case (2,000) or \$15 a box (500). A minimum of 15 people are required to participate. Register at outdoor recreation, Bldg. 914 by May 11.

►Join outdoor recreation on a trip to Rock City, Lookout Mountain, Ga. May 26. Meet at outdoor recreation at 9 a.m. for departure at 9:30 a.m. Bus will return at 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$40 per adult, \$35 per child (ages three through 12 year olds) and \$140 for family of four (two adults and two children). Package includes self guided rock tour, swing-a-long bridge, lover's leap, fairyland caverns, Mother Goose Village, 90-foot water fall, various gift shops and eateries throughout the trail and ride to and from Rock City Gardens. Deadline to sign up is May 18. A minimum of 12 people are required for outdoor recreation to host the trip.

►Join outdoor recreation on a trip to the World of Coca Cola June 28. Meet at outdoor recreation at 9 a.m. for departure at 9:30 a.m. Bus will return at 4:30 p.m. Cost is \$54 for 12 years and older; \$52.50 for 55 years and older and \$49 for children one to 11 years old. Cost includes transportation to and from and entrance into the World of Coca Cola. A minimum of 10 people are required for outdoor recreation to host this trip. Register by June 15 at outdoor recreation, Bldg. 914.

►A community water safety class will be held June 25 at 9 a.m. in the enlisted club pool. Cost is \$10 per person six years and older (14 years and younger must be accompanied by an adult). A minimum of 15 people are required to participate. Please register at outdoor recreation, Bldg. 914 by June 18.

►A CNN Studio tour will be held July 6 in Atlanta, Ga. Cost is \$53 for 12 years and older; \$51.50 for 55 years and older and \$49 for children one - 11 years old. Meet at outdoor recreation at 9 a.m. for departure at 9:30 a.m. Bus will return at 4:30 p.m. Cost includes transportation to and from and entrance into CNN Studios. A minimum of 10 people are required for outdoor recreation to host this trip. Please register by June 27 at outdoor recreation, Bldg. 914.

ONGOING

Officer's club members who come out to the club during their birthday month will receive a \$15 coupon to redeem toward their meal. Birthday coupons are available to club members of all ranks and grades. Coupons may be picked up at the cashier office.

The 2007 Air Force Falcons Sports Camps will be held June 10-27. Camps will include the following activities: baseball, boy's and girl's basketball, cheerleading, cross country, diving, fencing, football, golf, soccer, swimming, tennis, track and volleyball. For more detailed information go to www.GoAirForceFalcons.com or call Ron Hayes at 926-2110.

The Bamboo Grill featuring Oriental cuisine offers a lunch buffet Monday through Friday from 10:30 a.m. to 3 p.m. for \$6.24 (plus tax). Robins club members receive a 10 percent savings when they show their club card at time of purchase. The Bamboo Grill is located in Bldg. 767

on the corner of Ninth and Macon Streets. For more information or to place an order, call 922-0136.

Information, Tickets and Travel Robins Enlisted Club, Bldg. 956 has the following tickets for sale. For more information on these or other events, call 926-2945.

►The Al-Sihah Shrine 67th Circus will be held May 5 and 6 at the Macon Coliseum. Advanced tickets sales are available at Information, Tickets and Travel; \$12 adults and \$6 children (3 to 12 years). Show times are May 5 at 10 a.m., 2 p.m. and 6 p.m. and May 6 at 1:30 p.m. and 5 p.m.

►Tickets are available for the Georgia Renaissance Festival to be held Saturday through June 3 in Fairburn, Ga. Enter the gates of a magnificent 15th century kingdom where you will find the king and his court, castles and cottages, cheery pups and over 150 elaborately adorned shops offering an array of unique treasures. Cost is \$13.50 for adults, \$6 for children 6 to 12 years old.

►Enjoy a historic tour of Savannah with ITT July 26. Cost is \$164 and includes transportation by motor coach, time on River Street, historic grand tour of Savannah on a trolley, early dinner at Lady and Sons and a show "The Beat Goes On." Transportation will depart Bldg. 956 July 26 at 7:30 a.m. and return 1:30 a.m. July 27. A deposit of \$80 is due by May 14 and balance will be due by July 9. Must have a minimum of 25 people for trip.

The bowling center has the following specials. To learn more call 926-2112.

►All retirees receive a complimentary game when they show their retiree I.D. card along with coupon located on page 17 of the April Edge on Tuesdays in April.

►On Spot Café April special is a spicy chicken sandwich, fries and medium drink for \$4.50. For more information call the On Spot Cafe at 926-5240.

►Show us your library book from April 15-21 and receive a complimentary game during National Library Week.

►Enjoy Thunder Alley glow-in-the-dark bowling Fridays from 9 - 11 p.m.; cost 12 years and younger, \$5 and 13 years and older, \$10 and Saturdays from 9 - 11 p.m.; cost is \$10 for everyone. Register now for Peterson Point kids mixed bowling leagues.

Pine Oaks Golf Course has the following specials. To learn more, call 926-4103.

►In April enjoy several Fairways Grille weekly specials for only \$5.95. April 16 - 20 meatball hoagie with chips and drink and April 23 - 27 Reuben with chips and drink. Lunch is held from 11 a.m. - 1 p.m. Every Thursday in April also enjoy barbecue chicken dinner with potato salad, roll and soda for \$5.50. For more information call 923-1717.

►Play golf after 2 p.m. on weekends in April and pay only \$20 for green fee and cart.

►A Pine Oaks Golf Course golf league will be held April 23 - July 30 with a shotgun start at 5 p.m. Format is a 3-person scramble match play nine holes. Cost is \$50 per team. Golf fees are \$13 to ride for non-AGF members, \$7 to walk for non-AGF members and \$6 to ride for AGF members. Limited to the first 16 teams that sign up.

►A two-person club championship will be held April 21 and 22. Play four different 9-hole formats for \$40 annual green fee members or \$45 non-annual green fee members. Includes golf, cart, range, food and prizes.

Applications are available at the teen center for the 2007 Space Camp to be held at the U.S. Space and Rocket Center, Huntsville, Ala. July 29 through Aug. 3. Space Camp is for eligible users of the Air Force Youth Program ages 12 to 18 years old. Deadline to submit applications is May 1. For more information contact Marvin Hawkins at 926-5601 or via email at marvin.hawkins@robins.af.mil.

NOW PLAYING



Adult tickets are \$3.50; children 11 years old and younger tickets are \$2. Movies start at 7:30 p.m., unless noted. For more information, call the base theater at 926-2919.

FRIDAY

I THINK I LOVE MY WIFE Chris Rock, Kerry Washington Richard Cooper has it all. His wife, Brenda, is beautiful, intelligent and a fantastic mother - but there's just one little problem: he's bored out of his suburban businessman's mind. Richard can't help but fantasize about having nearly every woman he sees. Still, it's only fantasy. Then, one fateful day, an alluring, free-spirited, not to mention stunning, old friend, Nikki, suddenly appears at his office door, putting him to the ultimate test. Rated R. 94 minutes.

SATURDAY

PREMONITION Sandra Bullock, Julian McMahon Linda Hanson has a beautiful house, a loving husband and two adorable daughters. Her life is perfect, until the day she receives the devastating news that her husband Jim has died in a car accident. When she wakes up the next morning to find him alive and well, she assumes it was all a dream, but is shaken by how vivid it felt. Rated PG-13. 96 minutes.

UPCOMING

300 Gerard Butler and Lena Heady Set in the midst of the Persian-Greco war during the Battle of Thermopylae, where Spartan king Leonidas led his army of 300 soldiers into battle against the invading Persian army. According to legend, their valor and sacrifice inspired all of Greece to unite against their Persian foe, leading to the origins of democracy. Rated R. 117 minutes.

CHAPEL SERVICES

Catholic Catholic masses are held at the chapel each Saturday at 5:30 p.m., Sunday at 9:30 a.m., on Holy Days of Obligation at noon and a 5 p.m. vigil the day before, and Monday through Friday at noon. The Sacrament of Reconciliation is Saturday from 4:30 to 5:15 p.m.

Islamic Islamic Friday Prayer (Jum'ah) is Fridays at 2 p.m. in the chapel annex rooms 1 and 2.

Jewish Jewish services is Fridays at 6:15 p.m. at the Macon synagogue.

Orthodox Christian St. Innocent Orthodox Church service is at the chapel on the second Tuesday of each month at 5 p.m.

Protestant The traditional service meets Sunday in the Chapel at 11 a.m. featuring hymns, anthems, congregational prayers and readings. Contemporary service meets at 11 a.m. in the Base Theater, singing the latest praise and worship music. The gospel service meets at 8 a.m. at the Chapel, praising God with inspirational music. Religious education meets in Building 905 at 9:30 a.m.

The chapel helps with spiritual needs that arise. For further information, call the chapel at 926-2821.

at lanoris.askew@robins.af.mil. Submissions run for two weeks. The following person has been approved as a leave recipient: Debra D. Jackson, 78thAMDS/SGPB, POC is Tammy Holland, 327-8390.

Archery club offers chance to learn, perfect skills



U. S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Master Sgt. Scott Knowles, president of the Straight Arrow Archery Club, takes aim at a target during tournament play April 14. Although the club still holds competition, the focus has moved to getting more people to participate and have an enjoyable experience.

By AMANDA CREEL
amanda.creel.ctr@robins.af.mil

Blowing out a candle doesn't typically require much skill; just a little air. But members of the Straight Arrow Archery Club have found a way to make extinguishing a candle a skill all members would like to master.

The archer snubs out a burning candle while it sits nestled in the back of what remains of a 3-D deer target. The trick, however, is to extinguish the flame without touching the candle as the arrow passes.

Though this novelty shot may be a crowd pleaser, the archery club members say it is just one of the many challenges available to archery enthusiasts at the club's facilities.

"We get crazy by the end of the season. We start setting up shoots where you have to get down on your knees and shoot through a bush," said Master Sgt. Scott Knowles, president of the archery club.

"Archery is twofold. It is your ability to shoot and your ability to judge distances," said Master Sgt. Rick Holley, the club's vice president.

The club boasts a 14-target paper course, where targets range from 10 to 48 yards with the paper targets depicting animals including sheep, coyotes,

ground hogs, elks and moose. There is also a 20-target 3-D course, where some other animals such as a javelina, alligators and turkeys come alive through life-size targets that allow the hunters to imitate scenes that could appear in the wild. The club recently added two new 3-D targets to their trails: a baby bear and a skunk.

Both courses wind through trails in the woods south of Macon Street where the club is located, just past the Defense Reutilization and Marketing

WHAT TO KNOW

For more information about joining the Straight Arrow Archery Club, contact Rick Holley, the club's vice president, at 396-8687 or Karl Bodien, the club's secretary and treasurer, at 284-1150. The club is open to any one with a Department Of Defense identification card.

Office on the right.

"It's great exercise in the off-season for those of us that hunt. This is about as close a simulation as you get to shooting a real animal out in the woods," said Mike Engal, who's retired from the military.

Two of the targets on the 20-target 3-D course also provide archers the opportunity to test their broad tips instead of using their plastic tips and a chance to shot from a platform instead of the ground, said Sergeant Holley, with the 116th Operations Group.

"Being a member gives hunters an opportunity to stay skilled at shooting their bows between hunting seasons and a chance to tell a few tall tales from the last hunting season," he said.

"Oh man, I love the bear, the bulls-eye on that is about the size of my thumb nail," Mr. Engal said.

The club also has bag targets where members can shoot or warm-up before hitting the paper or 3-D courses.

However, members agreed the club doesn't just cater to those who know their way around a bow and arrow; the club also enjoys helping new archers learn the craft.

"We are getting away from the competition and focusing more on getting everyone to participate," said Sergeant Knowles, who is a member of the 330th Combat Training Squadron. "We just want people to come out and have a good time."

At the end of each league, door prizes will be awarded to those who participate and the more you participate the more times your name will be

dropped into the hat, said Sergeant Knowles.

However, the club recognizes that for some, the love of competition is part of the thrill, so to please their competitive spirit, one award will be given to whoever has the best average at the end of the season.

The club, which according to its members has been around for more than 20 years, has begun improving its facilities by cleaning up the grounds used for the target trails and by painting the pavilion and other

areas at the club.

"I just like being out on the course and I like to shoot the 3-D targets. Now that its got a little bit more spruced up, I can come out here and shoot a heck of a lot more," said Jacob Bodien, 11.

"We have been working to thin out the brush and make it where you can see us," Sergeant Holley said. "We are hoping people will go 'Wow, there's actually something out there' and maybe it will pique their interest a bit."



U. S. Air Force photo by Sue Sapp

Karl Bodien, treasurer of the Straight Arrow Archery Club, teaches his son Daniel, 7, how to properly use a bow and arrow.

AFA claims pair of boxing national titles

By VALERIE PERKIN

U.S. Air Force Academy Public Affairs

Two members of the Air Force boxing team were crowned national champions as the Falcons wrapped up competition at the 2007 National Collegiate Boxing Association Championships April 14 in Reno, Nev.

Senior Ian Tuznik defended his national title, while sophomore Jesse Horton claimed his first.

The Falcons entered the final night of competition in third place, with three boxers contending in the national finals.

Senior Willie Lloyd opened the competition at 112 pounds, but was unable to claim his third straight national title as the judges awarded the bout to Army's Mike Benedetto in a controversial decision. Lloyd and Benedetto traded punches in the opening rounds, but Lloyd seemed to gain the advantage as the bout wore on.

Horton claimed his first national title at 119 pounds with a decision over Army's Matt Longo. Even before the first bell tolled, Horton had a look of determination in his eye. Using strong punches and relentless jabs, Horton kept pressure on Longo throughout the three two-minute rounds, giving the



Courtesy photos

Sophomore Jesse Horton (left), seen here punching a teammate during the Academy's Wing Open Championships, claimed his first collegiate national title Saturday in Reno, Nev.

judges no other decision than to award Horton the bout.

For the second straight year, the Falcons were forced to wait until the night's final bout — the heavyweight contest — to learn their fate, as that bout would

determine the team's finish, which could range from second to fourth.

Tuznik took the pressure in stride and wasted no time claiming his second national heavyweight title over Prince Brown of UNLV in a dominating contest stopped by the referee in the second round. Using several hard-hitting jabs, the focused Tuznik took the fight to Brown and never allowed his stockier opponent to find a rhythm. The referee was forced to call the bout in the second round when Tuznik forced his opponent into three standing eight-counts.

For the third consecutive year, a slim margin kept the Falcons from the national team title. Air Force combined for 27 points, just shy of first-time champion Lock Haven. For the second straight year, Air Force tied with service academy rival Army in points, but won the tie-breaker for second with two individual champions compared

to Army's one.

Air Force remains among the elite as it has never finished lower than second at the national titles.

In addition to its two national champions and one silver medalist, Air Force claimed four other NCBA All-Americans. Freshman Matt McPhail (125 pounds), sophomore Nicholas Goc (129), senior Joe Conrad (165) and junior John Quinn (195) all claimed third-place honors following their finishes in the semifinal round of competition April 13.

As a team, Air Force was also awarded a Sportsmanship Award for its community involvement through the annual "Fighting for a Cause" charity with the Wing Open Championships. Since 1984, the Air Force boxing team has donated more than \$220,000 to worthwhile causes and families in need throughout Colorado Springs.



Senior Ian Tuznik won his second consecutive collegiate national title.

Men's basketball Falcons hire new coach

Jeff Reynolds, an assistant coach for the Air Force Academy men's basketball team the past two years, has been named head coach of the Falcons, athletic director Dr. Hans Mueh announced Tuesday morning.

Reynolds, the seventh head coach in program history and the fourth in the last five years, agreed to a five-year contract. Terms of the contract were not disclosed. He succeeds Jeff Bzdelik, who resigned on April 3 to become head coach at the University of Colorado.

"Jeff Reynolds has a distinguished record as an assistant and head coach and has been honored at every level," said Mueh. "He has had great success as a coach at eight different Division I and II programs

before coming to Air Force at Coach Bzdelik's request and was a key factor in Air Force's success as his top assistant coach."

During his two seasons as an assistant, Reynolds helped guide Air Force to its two most successful campaigns on the basketball court. In 2005-06, the Falcons were 24-7, the best record in program history, and played in the NCAA Tournament for just the fourth time ever. In '06-07, Air Force posted a 26-9 record, setting a new school record for most victories in one season, and advanced to the semifinals of the NIT. Air Force was just one of 17 Division I teams to win at least 50 games the last two seasons. — *Air Force Academy athletic media relations*

Sand save

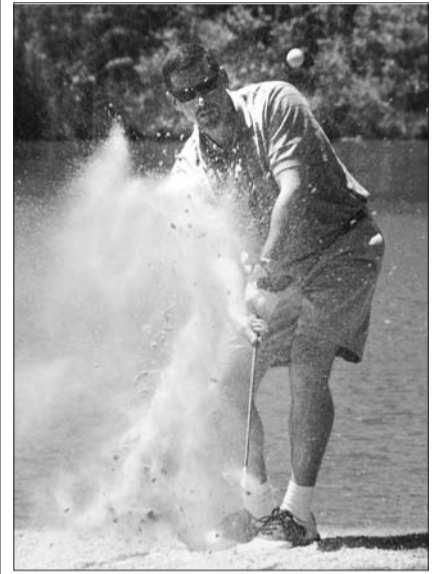


Photo by Lt. Col. John Stubar

David Ringley, 742nd Combat Sustainment Support Squadron, knocks one out of a sand trap at Pine Oaks Golf Course during the Automatic Test Systems Worldwide Users Conference golf tournament.

THE GO-TO GUYS

Robins' first sergeants make people their mission

BY HOLLY L. BIRCHFIELD
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Master Sgt. Jimmy Whittington had called Robins home for only a short time when he had more problems on his hands than an average man could handle.

A double murder, a murder for hire and an active-duty military member's killing of a toddler all weighed heavily on the Airman's shoulders. Sergeant Whittington is a first sergeant with the 53rd Combat Communications Squadron.

"The first three months I was here as a drafted first sergeant, the first weekend I signed in, we had a double murder in the 5th (Combat Communications Group)," he said. "So, coming in as a first sergeant, I was just sort of helping the other two shirts there. A few weeks later, I had the hit man case, Matthew Gladue. He was actually in my squadron. I worked with that guy. He was in pre-trial confinement when he hired a hit man to knock off the JAG (Judge Advocate General) officer, the commander, the first sergeant, the supervisor and the superintendent. I was working that and about three weeks later, I had a senior Airman who killed a 16-month-old and then on top of that, we had five DUIs (driving under the influence) in about a two-month span. So, overwhelming? Oh yeah, definitely."

But, the sergeant has risen to the challenge of the job, being named as the First Sergeant of the Year in his unit in 2006.

Sergeant Whittington, like the base's other 32 first sergeants, knows the Airmen in his unit and their life situations

WHAT TO KNOW

First sergeants are also referred to as "first shirts." The term originated from the large number of military awards typically worn on the military uniform shirts of first sergeants. As first shirts, they are among the most senior members of their squadron and they will generally have been awarded more military decorations than almost every other member of the unit. (Source: Wikipedia.com).

intimately. It's his job.

From putting people in touch with resources to overcome financial woes to consoling a family who's just found out that they've lost their loved one in a tragedy, Senior Master Sgt. Robert "Al" Toler, first sergeant for the 653rd Combat Logistics Support Squadron since 2002, said taking care of people is his business.

"A first sergeant is the commander's representative to the rest of the squadron," he said. "We are the 'people person' for the squadron, basically a human resources advisor. (We do) everything. We diaper kids. We pet dogs. We wipe noses. We take care of the squadron."

The 42-year-old Kinston, N.C., native said the mission of a first sergeant never rests.

"We are on call 24/7," he said. "I've had anything from domestic violence to a death in the squadron to the death of a squadron member's family member. We facilitate the process (for them). We make sure the process goes smoothly from start to finish. If someone has to go on emergency leave, we make sure they have money to go, that they've got the leave to go and the authority to get there, to get back."

Sergeant Toler said a

squadron's first sergeant is the "calm and cool hand" to guide the process of whatever is going on with an Airman or a squadron as a whole.

"Really, it's a job you have to want to do," he said. "It's not one that you're so much drafted into. It takes a quality individual that really wants to do this job, to do a good job at it."

The right attitude is only part of the equation. New first sergeants undergo about three weeks of training at Gunter Annex near Montgomery, Ala., to learn the job. Airmen go over Air Force instructions, support agencies, counseling services and any other methods that may be used to help their squadron's members.

Master Sgt. Clifford Powers, first sergeant in the 19th Maintenance Squadron since July 2006, said the training helped him to know what to do when faced with varying situations.

"Basically, they're giving you the tools and the know-how of how to deal with all of these agencies, whether it's the AAFES (Army Air Force Exchange Service), Air Force Aid, or your Life Skills individuals," he said. "Who do we point people to (in order to) get the individuals the help that they need? It's our job to find out."

Sergeant Powers, who was named first sergeant of the year for 2006 in the 19th Air Refueling Group, said first sergeants don't take leaders' place in helping their people. They merely serve as a helping hand.

"We're the single point of contact for the squadron," he said. "That doesn't mean leaders should be taken out (of the process) or not be talked with about situations. But most of the time when they're con-

cerned about getting the job done, they may not be fully aware of all of the avenues that are available, both on base and in the community, and that's where we come in to help guide them and find those resources."

First sergeants don't go at it alone. The First Sergeants Council, which meets each Friday at 7:30 a.m. in the Wynn Dining Facility, is a group that allows new first sergeants and veterans in the field to share information and ideas to help them in their respective duties.

Some first sergeants spend only three to six years in the job through the First Sergeant Selection program, while others go on to serve as first sergeants throughout their military career.

Whether it's a permanent career or a step in their professional path, first sergeants here take their jobs to heart.

"Not getting personally attached is the hardest part of the job," Sergeant Toler said. "I don't think you can ever do this job effectively and not get personally attached. Even though we brief each other not to do it, you can't do it."

While the job is challenging, Sergeant Powers said it's worth it when you see a troubled Airman back on his feet, both personally and professionally.

Sergeant Toler agreed. "I think it's the best job in the Air Force," he said. "It's a job that keeps you moving all the time and some people call moving stressful, but it's not. Moving is change. To be a change agent, to be the focal point for all the information the enlisted folks get in the squadron and some officers and some civilians, it's pretty exhilarating most of the time."

STRAIGHT TALK HOT LINE

For up-to-date information in the event of a base emergency, call 222-0815.



U. S. Air Force photo by SUE SAPP

Boy Scout Saadiq Goins (left) works with archeologist Stephen Hammack to record data on an artifact. Saadiq is working on his archaeology merit badge.

Robins archeologist helps Boy Scout earn badge

BY AMANDA CREEL
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When it comes to little boys, many parents know the joys and problems rock collections and dirt stained clothes present after an afternoon of digging up the backyard.

Danielle Goins knows them all to well as a mother of two boys. Her oldest son Saadiq, 11, has always loved digging up rocks and other objects, but it wasn't until his Boy Scout Troop 220 started learning about archeology that he knew how special some of his rocks are.

Though for some of the rocks in his collection it was too little too late, said Saadiq, whose father is Tech. Sgt. Santiago Goins, an Air Combat Command Electronic Warfare liaison officer with the 542nd Combat Sustainment Group.

"I had a couple hundred of them, but my mom threw them away," Saadiq said. "I learned that some of the rocks I pick up are artifacts, especially some of the thin ones with sharp edges."

His mother said she didn't know how special some of his

rocks were either until Saadiq began working to earn his archeology merit badge.

"Who knew they were artifacts? They were just rocks to me," Mrs. Goins said, adding now that she knows they are pieces of history, she feels badly.

The mother-son duo learned the value of the rocks while Saadiq worked with Stephen Hammack, Robins archeologist.

The time spent with Mr. Hammack at the base archeology lab helped Saadiq complete one of 11 requirements to earn his archeology merit badge. Saadiq had to spend eight hours working in the lab with a qualified archeologist helping to prepare artifacts for storage and display as part of his efforts.

Saadiq spent his first day in the lab washing artifacts such as pottery and stone.

"I had to use a toothbrush and I rubbed the stones as hard as I could," Saadiq said.

However, he added he had to be gentler with the pottery. He said his favorite part about washing the artifacts was finding the patterns in the pottery.

"I saw some designs like spi-

als and parallel lines," Saadiq said. "Some of them were so old you couldn't really see the designs on them."

The second day in the lab, Saadiq helped Mr. Hammack classify artifacts and record their findings, such as where the artifacts were found on base and whether the artifacts were dug up or found on the surface, Mr. Hammack said.

Like an expert, Saadiq also learned to classify the artifacts. Saadiq rattled off some of the classification categories.

He said, "utilized flakes are chipped off and used to chip off other stuff too, a tertiary flake was hit so hard you could see shock waves run through it, and a primary flake has lots of Quartz and a secondary flake just has some."

Saadiq said he first became interested in learning about archeology when his class at Robins Elementary studied it.

Mr. Hammack was impressed with Saadiq. He said you could tell he reads a lot and he is a good listener. "He is doing a very good job and he is a hard worker," he said.